National Electricity Policy

368. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to announce the National Electricity Policy and Rural Electricity Policy;

(b) what are the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether Government is seriously thinking of giving free power to farmers as a norm in the policy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) The Central Government is in consultation with the States formulating National Electricity Policy, National Policy on stand alone systems for rural areas and non-conventional energy system and National Policy on electrification and local distributions in rural areas as required under the electricity Act, 2003.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have the powers to fix tariff for sale of electricity to consumers including farmers. However, if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensees the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy.

The matter of providing subsidy in tariff to a class of consumers is a matter exclusively in the domain of the State Government and the Central Government has no role whatsoever, in this regard.

Setting up Power Projects in collaboration with foreign companies

369. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of power projects set up or to be set up with collaboration of foreign companies during the last three years; and

(b) the State-wise names/details of foreign and Indian participants with the amount of total investment proposed, time schedule of completion of each such project in the different parts of the country?